**In the Claims**

1. (currently amended) A method of securing a network <u>interface</u> device installed on a host comprising:

      initializing the network <u>interface</u> device without transmit functions;

      receiving notification that the host <u>on which the network interface is installed</u> has been authenticated; and

      in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling transmit functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing the network <u>interface</u> device comprises initializing the network <u>interface</u> device without receive functions.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device comprises routing received data to a network stack.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a firewall policy server to download firewall policy information that is used by a firewall on the network <u>interface</u> device after enabling transmit functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server is performed before transmitting or receiving data from other clients or servers.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises authenticating the firewall policy server.

8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving notification that a host has been authenticated includes receiving notification that the host has been authenticated for a role, and wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises downloading firewall policy information for the role.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving firewall policy information communicated to the host and using the firewall policy information at a hardware based firewall on the network interface device.

10. (currently amended) A network interface device for use in a host on a network, the network interface device comprising:

　　　　a network port adapted to send and receive network information; and

　　　　a module that disables at least one of transmit and receive functionality to the network port of the network interface device until the network interface device is notified that the host in which the network interface device is used has been authenticated.

11. (currently amended) The network interface device of claim 10, further comprising a firewall adapted to prevent the network interface device from

3

communicating with other devices according to firewall policy information stored at the firewall.

12. (currently amended) The network interface device of claim 11, further comprising nonvolatile memory, and wherein the firewall policy information is stored in the nonvolatile memory.

13. (currently amended) The network interface device of claim 11, wherein the network interface device is adapted to receive firewall policy information from a firewall policy server.

14. (currently amended) The network interface device of claim 10, wherein the network interface device is embodied as a network interface card.

15. (currently amended) The network interface device of claim 14, wherein the network device is embodied as a Secure CardBus network card.

16.-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A method of securing a network interface device installed on a host comprising:

      initializing the network interface device without receive functions;

      receiving notification that the host on which the network interface is installed has been authenticated; and

      in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling receive functions of the network interface device.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device comprises routing received data to a network stack.